

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF
AGRICULTURE

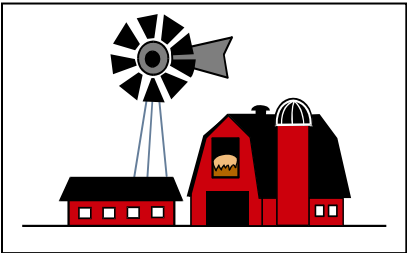
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Office Hours: 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Monday - Friday

/s/ Lance W. Grutmacher

Lance W. Grutmacher
County Executive Director

POTTAWATOMIE COUNTY
FSA UPDATE



FARM SERVICE AGENCY
501 STATE ST
PO BOX 368
WESTMORELAND, KS 66549

MAY 8, 2006

COUNTY COMMITTEE MEMBERS
William J. Budenbender
Jonathan E. Berges
Clara M. Ebert

REGULAR COMMITTEE MEETINGS
Second Tuesday each month

DCP CONTRACT REMINDER

As of today, we have about 100 less Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP) contracts than we had in 2005. Postcards have been sent to those we know of who have not enrolled or returned all signatures. June 1 is the last day to have all signatures returned. You can sign your contract after June 1, and before Sept. 30, but you will be assessed a late-signing fee of \$100 per farm.

When you sign the DCP contract, you are agreeing to:

- comply with highly erodible land conservation and wetland conservation provisions on all your land
- devote acreage equal to the base acreage to an agricultural or conserving use
- effectively control noxious weeds and otherwise maintain base acres according to sound agricultural practices
- not plant perennial fruits and vegetables (including nuts) or harvest annual FAVs (other than lentils, mung beans, and dry peas) or wild rice on base acres
- file acreage report for all cropland on the farm
- notify the county office staff when there is a transfer or change in interest of a producer

Remember, under DCP, you must designate shares and sign a new DCP contract each year.

REPORTING CROP ACREAGE

Filing an accurate and timely acreage report for all crops and land uses, including failed acreage, can prevent loss of benefits for a variety of Farm Service Agency programs. All cropland on the farm must be reported to receive benefits from the Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program, marketing assistance loans and Loan Deficiency Payments.

Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) acreage must be reported to receive annual rental payments.

Producers are required to file reports by May 31 for small grains and August 1 for all other crops.

Prevented planting and failed acreage should also be reported. Prevented planting must be filed by the last planting date for the crop and failed acreage must be filed before you destroy the crop.

Starting this year, those of you who plant a dual purpose sorghum silage must furnish a sales receipt showing the variety name and number before you can collect a Loan Deficiency Payment (LDP). A good time to furnish us with a copy of the sales receipt would be when you report your acreage, instead of having to look the ticket up during harvest.

NOMINATION FORM FOR COUNTY FARM SERVICE AGENCY (FSA) COMMITTEE ELECTION

The County FSA Committee election will be held this year on the first Monday of December. Ballots will be mailed to voters not less than 4 weeks before the election.

This form allows individuals to nominate themselves or any other person as a candidate. If additional forms are needed, this one may be copied or may be obtained at the County FSA Office or obtained electronically at <http://forms.sc.egov.usda.gov>. Each form submitted must be:

- A. Limited to one nominee.
- B. Signed and dated by the nominee in Item 4. Nominee must sign if willing to have his/her name placed on the ballot and agrees to serve if elected.
- C. Delivered to the County FSA Office or postmarked no later than August 1.

Note: Name shown on ballot will appear exactly the same as in Agency records.

The County FSA Committee is responsible for reviewing each form to determine the eligibility of nominees. A person who files this form and is found ineligible will be so notified and have an opportunity to file an appeal in accordance with 7 CFR Part 780.

Persons nominated should actively participate in the operation of a farm or ranch and be well qualified for committee work. A producer is eligible to be a County FSA committee member if the producer resides in the Local Administrative Area (LAA) in which the election is to be held and is eligible to vote.

Federal regulations may prohibit County FSA Committee members from holding certain positions in some farm, commodity, and political organizations if such positions pose a conflict of interest with FSA duties. The positions include functional offices such as president, vice president, secretary, or treasurer; and positions on boards or executive committees. Conflict of interest restrictions also apply to employees, operators, managers, and majority owners of tobacco warehouses. Questions concerning eligibility should be directed to the County FSA Office.

A candidate has the option to request that all voted ballots for an individual county committee election be returned to the respective State Office in lieu of being returned to the county office. This request must be in writing and submitted to the local County Executive Director prior to the announced end of the nomination period.

The duties of County FSA Committee members include:

- A. Administering farm program activities conducted by the County FSA Office.
- B. Informing farmers of the purpose and provisions of the FSA programs.
- C. Keeping the State FSA Committee informed of LAA conditions.
- D. Monitoring changes in farm programs.
- E. Participating in county meetings as necessary.
- F. Performing other duties as assigned by the State FSA Committee

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